

REMARKS

The Official Action dated August 21, 2007, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

Claims 1-21 and 24-27 are canceled, claim 22 is hereby amended, and claims 28-51 are hereby added. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the specification and drawings. It is believed that these amendments and new claims do not involve introduction of new matter, and entry is accordingly believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Claims 22-23 and 28-51 accordingly remain in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claim 22 in independent form. Claim 23 remains dependent upon claim 22. Allowance of claims 22-23 is respectfully requested.

Applicants also thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for their courtesy in joining Applicants' undersigned counsel in a telephonic interview on October 25, 2007. No agreement was reached during this interview, although the rejection of now canceled claim 15 in light of Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 4,230,246), Fukushima et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0052712), and Pilliod (U.S. Patent No. 5,484,198) was discussed.

In the Official Action dated August 21, 2007, claims 1-5, 11, 14, 15, 21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Fukushima et al. and further in view of Pilliod. Claims 12, 13, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Fukushima et al. and in further view of

Pilliod and Sotiropff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,516,983). However, Applicants submit that these rejections are now moot, as claims 1-5, 11-15, 21, 24, 25 and 27 are canceled. Applicants submit that new claims 28-51 are patentable over the cited references, either alone or in any arguable combination.

Early allowance of claims 22-23 and 28-51 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' undersigned counsel by telephone at (513) 698-5148 if the Examiner determines that such might expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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